As regrads rice, 2.61 lakh MTs has been lifted from FCI during the current year (upto 16.08.2001) by the exporters for the purpose of export.

Export of Sugar

3365. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is currently the largest producer and consumer of sugar in the world;

(b) whether the country's sugar production uptil 2001 reached to a higher level;

(c) the export of sugar made during the current year; and

(d) the countries to whom sugar was exported and at what price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) India was the largest producer as well as consumer of sugar during the sugar season 1999-2000 (Oct.-Sept.).

(b) As on 30.6.2001, the production of sugar during the season 2000-2001 was 176.42 lakh tonnes (Provisional) as against 178.38 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date of the previous season.

(c) and (d) As per the latest available information from the trade circles, beginning October 2000 till 23.07.2001, a quantity of about 8.11 lakh tonnes of sugar (Provisional) has been physically exported. These exports have been made to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Afghanistan, Canada, Indonesia, Dubai, Singapore, China, Iraq, Vietnam and Malaysia.

As sugar exports are being undertaken by various sugar mills/exporters as per their own commercial judgement, it is not possible to indicate the price at which the sugar has been exported by various parties.

BPL families in Andhra Pradesh

3366. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families living Below Poverty Line identified so far in Andhra Pradesh;